

**Analysis of the request submitted by Cyprus for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention**

**Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation  
(Belgium, Norway, Sri Lanka and Zambia)**

1. Cyprus ratified the Convention on 17 January 2003, and the Convention entered into force for Cyprus on 1 July 2003. In its initial transparency report submitted on 24 April 2005, Cyprus reported areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced. Cyprus was obliged to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 July 2013. Cyprus, believing that it would be unable to do so by that date, submitted a request to the 2012 Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties (12MSP) for a three-year extension of its deadline, until 1 July 2016. The 12MSP agreed to grant the request.
2. In granting Cyprus' request, the 12MSP noted that Cyprus has expressed that the sole circumstance which impedes its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control is that it does not have effective control over the areas in question. The 12MSP further noted the importance of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods.
3. Following its initial request for extension, Cyprus has subsequently submitted and been granted two additional requests for extension. On 27 March 2015, Cyprus submitted a request for extension which was granted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties (14MSP) for a period of three years, until 1 July 2019. On 2 February 2018, Cyprus submitted a request for extension which was unanimously granted by the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (17MSP) for a period of three years, until 1 July 2022. The request submitted in 2015 and 2018 indicated that circumstances that made it necessary for Cyprus to request an extension in 2012 remain unchanged.
4. On 9 February 2021, Cyprus submitted to the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for extension of its 1 July 2022 deadline. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Cyprus had submitted its request in a timely manner and had engaged in a cooperative dialogue with the Committee. Cyprus' request is for 3 years, until 1 July 2025.
5. As with the request granted by the 17MSP, the request indicates that the sole circumstance which impedes its ability to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas that it has reported to be under its jurisdiction or control is that it does not have effective control over the areas in question.
6. The Committee wrote to Cyprus to request information with respect to Security Council Resolution 2561 (2021) and specifically on "the announcement that 18 suspected hazardous areas across the island have now been cleared of mines". Cyprus responded by indicating that these areas were defined as potentially hazardous on the basis of information provided by the United Nations Peace-Keeping Forces in Cyprus whereby non-anti-personnel mines had been laid. Cyprus further indicated that 9 of these areas were located in areas under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and 9 in the occupied areas of the Republic of Cyprus. Cyprus added that following the inspection in 2019 of these areas by the

United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus and the United Nations Mine Action Services, these areas were checked and declared mine-free.

7. The Committee wrote to Cyprus to request information on its efforts since the last extension request to reach an agreement “to allow access to deminers and to facilitate the removal of the remaining mines in Cyprus within the buffer zone”. Cyprus responded by indicating that the Government of Cyprus remains committed in constructively cooperating with the aim to remove all mines from the territory of Cyprus. Cyprus further noted that since there are no anti-personnel minefields laid by the Authorities of the Republic of Cyprus within the buffer zone, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus has not been requested to allow access in that respect.
8. The Committee wrote to Cyprus to request additional information on efforts to ensure that the “request includes detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities”. Cyprus responded by indicating that it is not possible for the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, under the existing circumstances, to develop and implement actions relating to carrying out detailed, costed and multi-year plans for mine risk education and reduction in affected communities.
9. The Committee noted the necessity and importance of each State Party, which has reported mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control and which believes that it will be unable to implement Article 5.1 with respect to all such areas within its original or extended deadline, submitting a request for an extension in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Convention and the decisions of the 17MSP and recommendations of the 12MSP. The Committee further noted the importance of a State Party providing information on changes to the status of the control of mined areas when such a State Party has indicated that matters related to control affect the implementation of Article 5 during extension periods.